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Central Intelligence Agency
Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

Excluded

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NOTE TO: Director of Central Intelligence

Bill -

I thought you might find our assessment
of earthquake damage in Mexico City of
some interest.

RG.

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment:
As Stated

(C)

C-362

Assessment of Earthquake Damage in Mexico City

The September earthquakes delivered a heavy blow to Mexico's already weakened economy. Although the epicenter was located on the Pacific coast about 250 miles from the capital, most of the damage was concentrated in downtown Mexico City. Government office buildings were particularly hard hit, as were hotels catering to the important tourist industry. Our rough estimate is that the overall cost of repairing or replacing destroyed and damaged buildings would be about US \$2.5 billion. This is a very crude figure based on some rough assumptions on labor and material costs and the total square footage of damaged and destroyed structures. The figure of US\$50 per square foot was used as a multiplier. This rough estimate of reconstruction does not include the cost of replacing equipment, furnishings, or interior decorations; nor does it include the cost of damage and destruction to individual homes and small apartment buildings.

2 October 1985

UNCLASSIFIED

To better understand the range of destruction in Mexico City, the country's administrative and economic center and one of the world's largest urban concentrations, we have grouped the affected buildings into six categories:

- ° government office buildings
- ° hotels
- ° commercial and industrial buildings
- ° residential buildings
- ° hospitals and clinics
- ° utility buildings.

HOTELS

The tourist industry is a key sector of the Mexican economy. Apart from the negative psychological impact of the earthquake on tourism, consideration must also be given to the time and expense of repairing hotel and restaurant facilities destroyed in the disaster.

Large hotels suffering damage:

- ° 1. Hotel Alameda; 345 rooms; evacuated
- ° 2. Hotel Casa Blanca; 268 rooms; structural damage
- ° 3. Hotel Continental; 342 rooms; structural damage
- ° 4. Hotel De Carlo; 100 rooms; heavy damage
- ° 5. Hotel Del Angel; structural damage
- ° 6. Hotel Del Prado; 520 rooms; structural damage
- ° 7. Hotel El Presidente; 128 rooms; heavy damage

- 8. Hotel El Romano; 154 rooms; destroyed
- 9. Hotel Guadalupe; 119 rooms; heavy damage
- 10. Hotel Principado; 150 rooms; destroyed
- 11. Hotel Regis; 331 rooms, destroyed
- 12. Hotel Romano Diana; 168 rooms; destroyed
- 13. Hotel Versailles; destroyed

Hotels not located on the map:

- Hotel Finisterre; 115 rooms; destroyed
- Hotel Jardines de Churubusco; structural damage
- Hotel Montreal; 91 rooms; destroyed

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

Mexico City's commercial sector emerged in remarkably good shape from the earthquake. Many large office buildings, such as the 44-story Latin American Tower, suffered no reported damage. Several clothing factories, however, were destroyed, resulting in a great loss of life.

Major commercial buildings suffering damage:

- 14. Televisa; studies and offices; destroyed
- 15. Banco International; destroyed
- 16. Phillips Mexican; destroyed
- 17. Central Plaza Office Building; destroyed
- 18. Sears; large downtown store; heavy damage
- 19. Office Building on Turin; 7 stories; destroyed

- 20. Pino Suarez; two of four 22-story towers; destroyed
- 21. Clothing Factories; eight garment plants employing
600 seamstresses; destroyed

Buildings not located on the map:

- BANAMEX; central bank; destroyed
- Edificio Basauro

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

Mexico City is a sprawling metropolis covering much of the Valley of Mexico. Many of its 17 million residents live in poor squatter communities around its periphery. These areas suffered little. On the other hand, many large apartment buildings in downtown Mexico City, such as those of the Tlatelolco public housing complex, were destroyed. These apartment towers housed middle and upper middle class people; their destruction and the plight of the former residents are viewed with special concern by the Mexican Government.

Major residential buildings suffering damage:

- ° 22. Nuevo Leon Apartments; Tlatelolco Public Housing Complex; 14-story structure; destroyed
- ° 23. Benito Juarez Highrise Apartments; 380 units; destroyed
- ° 24. Residences and Apartments; destroyed

Buildings not located on the map:

- ° Two Apartment Buildings in Colonia Postal; destroyed

GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDINGS

Many buildings were destroyed outright or so severely damaged that they will have to be torn down. The loss of headquarters facilities and basic records seriously weakens the country's institutional structure and not only hampers reconstruction activities but renders decision making exceedingly difficult in the highly centralized and bureaucratic Mexican system.

Key government buildings suffering damage:

- ° 25. Ministry of Public Works, communications, & Transportation; multistory complex of structures; destroyed
- ° 26. Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources; destroyed
- ° 27. Ministry of Commerce & Industrial Development (SECOFIN); destroyed
- ° 28. Subministry of Commerce; destroyed
- ° 29. Ministry of Navy Archives & classroom; destroyed
- ° 30. Ministry of Budget (SPP); destroyed
- ° 31. Office of the Attorney for Consumer Affairs; destroyed
- ° 32. Office of the Attorney for the D. F.; multistory cement & steel structure; destroyed
- ° 33. Office of the Attorney General for the Republic; destroyed
- ° 34. Federal District Treasury Department; destroyed

- 35. Ministry of Finance & Public Credit (SHCP);
destroyed
- 36. National Development Bank (NAFINSA); destroyed
- 37. Ministry of Labor & Welfare; destroyed

Buildings not located on the map:

- Camara Nacional de Comercio; destroyed
- UNAM rectoria; slight damage
- State Technical School; destroyed
- Public School No. 3; destroyed

HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

Downtown Mexico City has a large number of medical facilities, and many suffered damage. Some, including the city's largest hospital, were completely destroyed. Replacing and repairing hospitals together with their expensive medical equipment will be one of the more costly aspects of reconstruction. This assessment addresses only the structural costs.

Key hospitals and clinics suffering damage:

- 38. General Hospital; eight of nine buildings, including the 7-story gynecology-obstetrics wing; destroyed
- 39. Central Surgical Hospital; destroyed
- 40. Government Clinic; destroyed
- 41. Hospital Juarez; 12-story building with 400 beds; destroyed

Buildings not located on the map:

- Hospital St. Elena; destroyed
- IMSS Building; destroyed

UTILITIES

It may take months to fully assess the damage to Mexico City's antiquated water supply system, which has expanded in a haphazard manner since the colonial era. Many neighborhoods otherwise unaffected by the earthquake report a lack of water. Damage to certain utility structures, particularly telephone exchange buildings and government offices involved in water, sewer, and gas services will slow utility restoration. Water services may be affected for months.

Major utility facilities suffering damage:

- ° 42. Telephones
- ° 43. Telephones
- ° 44. Long Distance telephones

Structures by Ownership

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Hotel Alameda | Private |
| 2. Hotel Casa Blanca | Private |
| 3. Hotel Continental | Private |
| 4. Hotel De Carlo | Private |
| 5. Hotel Del Angel | Private |
| 6. Hotel Del Prado | Private |
| 7. Hotel El Presidente | Private |
| 8. Hotel El Romano | Private |
| 9. Hotel Guadalupe | Private |
| 10. Hotel Principado | Private |
| 11. Hotel Regis | Private |
| 12. Hotel Romano Diana | Private |
| 13. Hotel Versailles | Private |
| 14. Televisa | Government |
| 15. Banco International | Private |
| 16. Phillips Mexicano | ? |
| 17. Central Plaza Office Building | ? |
| 18. Sears | Private |
| 19. Office Building | ? |
| 20. Pino Suarez | ? |
| 21. Clothing Factories | Private |
| 22. Nuevo Leon Apartment Building | Government |
| 23. Benito Juarez Highrise Apartment | Government |
| 24. Residents & Apartments | Private ? |
| 25. Ministry of Public Works, | |

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|---|------------|
| Communications & Transportation | Government |
| 26. Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources | Government |
| 27. Ministry of Commerce & Industrial Development (SECOFIN) | Government |
| 28. Subministry of Commerce | Government |
| 29. Ministry of Navy Archives & classroom | Government |
| 30. Ministry of Budget (SPP) | Government |
| 31. Office of the Attorney for Consumer Affairs | Government |
| 32. Office of the Attorney for the D. F. | Government |
| 33. Office of the Attorney General for the Republic | Government |
| 34. Federal District Treasury Department | Government |
| 35. Ministry of Finance & Public Credit (SHCP) | Government |
| 36. National Development Bank (NAFINSA) | Government |
| 37. Ministry of Labor & Welfare | Government |
| 38. General Hospital | Government |
| 39. Central Surgical Hospital | Government |
| 40. Government Clinic | Government |
| 41. Hospital Juarez | Government |
| 42. Telephones | Government |
| 43. Telephones | Government |
| 44. Long Distance Telephones | Government |

Buildings Not Located on the Map

| | |
|---|------------|
| Hotel Finisterre | Private |
| Hotel Jardines de Churubusco | Private |
| Hotel Montreal | Private |
| BANAMEX | Government |
| Edificio Basauro | ? |
| Two Apartment Buildings in Colonia Postal | ? |
| Camara Nacional de Comercio | Government |
| UNAM rectoria | Government |
| Hospital St. Elena | ? |
| IMSS Building | Government |
| State Technical School | Government |
| Public School No. 3 | Government |

